

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1 and 3 have been amended. Support for the amendment to Claim 1 is found in the specification, such as in Example 1. Support for the amendment to Claim 3 is found in the specification, such as in Example 2. Therefore, there is no new matter.

Claims 1-11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,568,290 to Nakamura ("Nakamura '290") in view of JP 2001-311827 ("JP '827").

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the following reasons.

Claim 1 presently recites that the chroma C^* in the polarizing film is 7 or smaller and 4.8 or larger, providing that a parallel hue is expressed on a chromaticity coordinate of (a^* , b^*).

Nakamura '290 discloses that its polarizing film can be obtained by stretching a hydrophobic polymer such as partially saponified ethylene/vinyleneacetate copolymer, partially formalized polyvinyl alcohol or polyvinyl alcohol, and allowing the stretched film to absorb thereon iodide or dichrolic dye; or by subjecting a plastic film such as polyvinyl chloride film to polyene orientation treatment. *See*, Nakamura '290, col. 16, lines 57-63. As stated in the Office Action, Nakamura '290 does not teach that the polarizing plate thereof should have a chroma C^* of 3 or smaller.

JP '827 discloses that its polarizing plate solves the problem of displaying a more neutral gray white and black with high contrast. *See*, English Abstract of JP '827. The polarizing plate disclosed in JP '827 has a^* and b^* of perpendicular hue measured by JIS Z 8729 in $-5.0 \leq a^* \leq 10$

and $-10 \leq b^* \leq 1.0$. Id. Therefore, JP '827 teaches that the a^* and b^* of perpendicular hue thereof is close to zero (0), thus providing for a chroma C^* that is also close to zero (0). As described in page 8 of the specification, the chroma C^* is defined by the following equation:

$$\text{Chroma } C^* = [(a^*)^2 + (b^*)^2]^{1/2}$$

Applicant respectfully submits that a person of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to combine Nakamura '290 with JP '827 to optimize the a^* and b^* ranges so that chroma C^* is 4.8 or larger. Nakamura '290 does not teach or suggest that the polarizing plate thereof should have a chroma C^* of 4.8 or larger. Additionally, JP '827 fails to teach or suggest the desirability of a chroma C^* that is 4.8 or larger. *See*, MPEP 2143.01. JP '827 fails to teach or suggest that the polarizing plates thereof improve the color reproductivity of a liquid-crystalline display using a dye type polarizer. On the contrary, JP '827 discloses that its polarizing plate solves the problem of displaying a more neutral gray white and black with high contrast. *See*, English Abstract of JP '827. JP '827 also teaches against a chroma C^* of 4.8 or larger, because it teaches ranges of a^* and b^* that provide for a chroma C^* close to zero (0). Therefore, a person of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to look to JP '827 to optimize the a^* and b^* ranges so that the chroma C^* is 4.8 or larger.

Further, JP '827 and Nakamura '290 fail to provide motivation to select ranges of a^* and b^* that would provide for a chroma C^* that is 4.8 or larger. As described above, JP '827 teaches against selecting a range of a^* and b^* that would provide for the chroma C^* of 4.8 or larger.

Claim 2 depends from Claim 1. Therefore, Claim 2 is patentable for at least the same reasons as Claim 1.

Claim 3 presently recites that the a chroma C^* in the polarizing film is 9 or smaller and 7.2 or larger providing that a parallel hue thereof is expressed on a chromaticity coordinate of (a^* , b^*). A chroma C^* that is 7.2 or larger is further away from zero than the chroma C^* recited in Claim 1 (is 7 or smaller and 4.8 or larger). As with the case with Claim 1, a person or ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to look to JP '827 to optimize the a^* and b^* so that chroma C^* is 7.2 or larger. JP '827 and Nakamura '290 also fail to provide motivation to select ranges of a^* and b^* that would provide for a chroma C^* that is 7.2 or larger.

Claims 4-11 depend directly or indirectly from Claim 3. Therefore, Claims 4-11 are patentable at least for the same reasons as Claim 3.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. APPLN. NO. 10/777,670

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.


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